

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) A method comprising:

determining a plurality of payload data packets from a set of data to be streamed to a client system; and

storing the plurality of payload data packets in a plurality of data objects in a memory, wherein each data object of the plurality of data objects is directly addressable in the memory via an associated object handle, and wherein each data object of the plurality of data objects stores a portion of payload data stored in the payload data packets.

22. (New) A method as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

determining header data from the set of data; and

storing a portion of the header data in a session data object in the memory.

23. (New) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein:

a data object of the plurality of data objects comprises an object meta data portion and a plurality of data chunks; and

storing the plurality of payload data packets in the plurality of data objects in the memory further comprises:

storing a number representing a total number of data chunks in the plurality of data chunks, in the object meta data portion; and

storing a subset of the payload data packets in the plurality of data chunks.

24. (New) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein:

a data chunk of the plurality of data chunks comprises a chunk meta data portion, packet meta data portion, and a plurality of packet payloads; and

storing a subset portion of payload data from the portion of payload data, further comprises:

storing a number representing the total number of packet payloads in the plurality of packet payloads, in the chunk meta data portion,

storing a presentation time for each packet payload, in the packet meta data portion, and

storing a subgroup of payload data from the subset portion of payload data, in the plurality of packet payloads.

25. (New) A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the plurality of payload data packets are configured to be played on a media player selected from the group comprising: RealNetworks Real Player-compatible, Microsoft Media Player-compatible, Apple QuickTime player-compatible.

26. (New) A method as recited in claim 24, further comprising streaming plurality of payload data packets on a port selected from the group: 554, 2001, 1755, 80.

27. (New) A method as recited in claim 23, wherein the portion of payload data packets stored in each of the plurality of data objects is associated with a pre-determined amount of presentation time.

28. (New) A method as recited in claim 22, wherein determining a plurality of payload data packets from the set of data comprises pre-computing the plurality of payload data packets from the set of data.

29. (New) A network attachable storage system comprising:

- a processor;

- a network interface coupled to the processor; and

- a memory coupled to the processor, the memory storing instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the storage system to perform a process that includes:

- receiving a data file that includes encoded media data;

- determining header data from the data file;

- pre-computing a plurality of payload packets from the encoded media data;

- creating a session data file to store a portion of the header data, wherein the header data include an indication of an encoding scheme or a duration, or both; and

- creating a plurality of data objects that store the plurality of payload packets, wherein each data object of plurality of data objects is directly addressable in the storage system via an associated object handle, and wherein each data object of

the plurality of data objects stores a set of payload packets from the plurality of payload packets.

30. (New) A network attachable storage system as recited in claim 29, wherein:

a data object from the plurality of data objects comprises an object meta data portion and a plurality of data chunks,

the object meta data portion stores a number representing a total number of data chunks in the data object, and

each data chunk of the plurality data chunks stores a subset of the set of payload packets.

31. (New) A network attachable storage system as recited in claim 29, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the storage system to:

retrieve the subset of the set of payload packets from the plurality of data chunks;

retrieve the header data from the session data object;

combine the header data and the subset of the set of payload packets to form a stream of media data packets; and

serve the stream of media data packets to a client system.

32. (New) A network attachable storage system as recited in claim 29, wherein each of the data objects is associated with a presentation time.

33. (New) A network attachable storage system as recited in claim 31, wherein the stream of media data packets is in a format selected from the group: Microsoft Media

Streaming--compatible, Real Time Streaming Protocol--compatible, RealNetworks--compatible, QuickTime-compatible.

34. (New) A network attachable storage system as recited in claim 29, wherein the instructions that cause the storage system to serve the stream of media data packets comprise code instructions that cause the storage system to output the media data packets on a port selected from the group: 554, 2001, 1755, 80.

35. (New) A network attachable storage system as recited in claim 29, wherein the object handle comprises a filename.

36. (New) An apparatus comprising:

means for determining a plurality of payload data packets from a data file to be streamed to a client system;

means for determining header data from the data file;

means for storing a portion of the header data in a session data object in a cache memory; and

means for storing the plurality of payload data packets in a plurality of data objects in the cache memory, wherein each data object of the plurality of data objects is directly addressable in the cache memory via an associated object handle, and wherein each data object of the plurality of data objects stores a portion of payload data stored in the payload data packets.

37. (New) An apparatus as recited in claim 36, wherein:

a data object of the plurality of data objects comprises an object meta data portion and a plurality of data chunks; and

the means for storing the plurality of payload data packets in the plurality of data objects in the cache memory further comprises:

means for storing a number representing a total number of data chunks in the plurality of data chunks, in the object meta data portion; and

means for storing a subset of the payload data packets in the plurality of data chunks.

38. (New) An apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein:

a data chunk of the plurality of data chunks comprises a chunk meta data portion, packet meta data portion, and a plurality of packet payloads; and

the means for storing a subset portion of payload data from the portion of payload data, further comprises:

means for storing a number representing the total number of packet payloads in the plurality of packet payloads, in the chunk meta data portion,

means for storing a presentation time for each packet payload, in the packet meta data portion, and

means for storing a subgroup of payload data from the subset portion of payload data, in the plurality of packet payloads.

39. (New) An apparatus as recited in claim 38, wherein the plurality of payload data packets are configured to be played on a media player selected from the group

comprising: RealNetworks Real Player-compatible, Microsoft Media Player-compatible, Apple QuickTime player-compatible.

40. (New) An apparatus as recited in claim 38, further comprising means for streaming plurality of payload data packets on a port selected from the group: 554, 2001, 1755, 80.

41. (New) An apparatus as recited in claim 37, wherein the portion of payload data packets stored in each of the plurality of data objects is associated with a pre-determined amount of presentation time.

42. (New) An apparatus as recited in claim 36, wherein the means for determining a plurality of payload data packets from the data file comprises means for pre-computing the plurality of payload data packets from the data file.